

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment to the Abstract is requested. Applicants had submitted this amendment in a response filed on February 9, 2009. This response was deemed to be non-compliant because a clean version of the amended Abstract was not included. Applicants are not aware of any requirement to submit a clean version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121. This submission is a replacement paragraph of the specification and not a new paragraph, so it appears that the Rules of Practice and the MPEP only require a substitute paragraph showing the additions and deletions to that paragraph. It is therefore believed that Applicants' prior submission was compliant.

Nevertheless, in an effort to move this case toward allowance, Applicants have resubmitted the amendment to the Abstract and have included a clean version of the amended Abstract on a separate page. This submission should address the requirement set forth in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment and should place this application in condition for allowance.

According to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Applicants need only submit the section identified as non-compliant in the Notice, namely the Abstract. It is therefore presumed that all other amendments in Applicants' prior response have or will be entered and that Applicants' arguments, which are adopted in this response, will be considered.

Conclusion

As explained in detail in Applicants' response of February 9, 2009, the primary reference, the '061 Patent, fails to disclose all of the structural limitations recited in claim 1 as amended. The '203 Patent also fails to provide the missing structure, so both cited references fail to anticipate or render obvious claim 1. Moreover, as explained above, certain details in the dependent claims are not found in the applied references, whether taken alone or in combination. It is therefore believed that all of the pending claims 1-13 and 15 are patentable, and that action toward a Notice of Allowance is appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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